

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 517

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to recognize Don Odom on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding school administrators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding individual is Don Odom, who will soon take a much-deserved retirement from Rutherford County Schools, which he has served as Director of Schools since July 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, officially retiring on June 30, 2018, Don Odom will complete an exemplary fifty-year career as an educator with Rutherford County Schools, having begun his illustrious life's work as a math teacher for four years at Kittrell School before becoming the head of the math department for three years at Oakland High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Odom also enjoyed a twenty-three-year tenure as a principal in Smyrna, spending twenty-two years at David Youree Elementary and one year at Old Rock School; and

WHEREAS, joining the central office staff, Don Odom was an attendance coordinator for the school district for five years before being named an assistant superintendent; and

WHEREAS, during his nine-year tenure as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, he played an integral role in the transformation of Central Magnet School from a middle school to a magnet school for high achievers, which opened in 2010; and

WHEREAS, since taking the reins of the 45,000-student school district in 2012, Don Odom's leadership skills and dedication to excellence in education have resulted in Rutherford County enjoying a ninety-five percent graduation rate and national acclaim, as Central Magnet

School was recognized as the top school in Tennessee and thirty-seventh in the nation by *U.S. News and World Report*; and

WHEREAS, Don Odom's accomplishments while Director of Schools for Rutherford County Schools also include the opening of Stewarts Creek High School in Smyrna in 2013, the opening of a new and larger John Colemon Elementary School in Smyrna in 2017, and the scheduled opening of Rockvale High School in the summer of 2019; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Don Odom has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the students, parents, teachers, and school board members of the Rutherford County school system; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Don Odom our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applaud his dedication to the youth of Tennessee, and wish him much happiness and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.